(b) if so, whether it is a fact that 36 percent persons residing in rural areas have their monthly income Rs. 300 p.m. or even less; and

(c) if not, assessment of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Planning Commission estimates, 27.09 per cent of the rural people were below the poverty line of Rs. 327.56 per capita per month during the year 1999-2000.

(c) Question does not arise.

Release of funds for IAY houses in Orissa

2968. SHRI MAN MOHAN SAMAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has sanctioned 1 lakh IAY additional houses for the victims of 24 flood affected districts of Orissa during the year 2001-02;

(b) if so, whether Government has released only 50 per cent amount for the above project; and

(c) whether the balance amount is yet to be released, if so, the time by when this amount would be released to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development had released the first instalment of Rs. 82.50 crore for construction of 1 lakh additional houses under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for the victims of 24 flood affected districts of Orissa during the year 2001-2002.

(c) Based on utilization of funds, the second installment amounting to Rs. 31.04 crore has been released to 15 flood affected districts of Orissa. Proposals for release of the balance amount have not been received from the State Government.